

THE
POORE MANS CRY.

Wherein

Is shewed the present miserable estate of mee
IOHN LILBURNE, Close prisoner
in the Fleete. K

ALSO

An humble Petition to his Maiesties Honorable
privy Councill, for meaintenance that
I samish not.

Pro. 21. 13.

Who so stoppeth his eares at the cry of the poore, he also
himselfe shall cry and not be heard.



Published by a backe friend of the
English Popish Prelates,

1639.

Wm. J. ...

Courteous Reader:

IT is not without the special wisdoms of God, to set forth the kingdom of Antichrist vnder the name & title of a Beast: For looke as Beasts do exercise all kinde of cruelty, and no favour is to be expected from them: so it is with the inhuman Prelates, their delight is only in the blood of the Saints: and as for Pittie, Compassion, Charritie &c. there is no more in them then in Dogs. I could

* Witnes lately their offering of two hundred pounds to one in London, to betray his friend into their bloody hands. *give many instances(*) of their beast-like doings this way: but it needs not, considering how the same is already knowne vnto all men in all places. Besides in this short Relation, thou shalt haue as much proved as I do here affirme of them: namely that they are without naturall affections, inhumane, barbarous. Such as Please not*

It seemes there is now some scarfity among these Wolves, that they will giue soe much monie for one poore sheep. *God, and are contrarie to all men 1 Theff. 2. 15. fulfilling herein (as did Iudas) the Prophecies recorded of thē in the Revelation, viz. to be Serpents, Scorpions, and the Spirits of Diuels, making warre against the Saints and to overcome them.*

The consideration of whose cruelty, is to aduertise every faithfull man, to looke to it, that he well prepare himselfe: to fight with these Beasts, that so whensoever the Lord shall call him to warre this way, he may by the power of the Lambe overcome, and possesse the Crowne of life.

Thy exiled friend and namelesse
Country-man.



To all the people of God, that love the Lord Iesus
Christ in truth and sincerity, and desire the
welfare and prosperity of his poore
afflicted Saines & Seruants.



Dearely beloued Brethren, and fellow heires
of the same Kingdome and Crowne of Glory
with mee. I am at this present constrained to
declare vnto (a) you, and truly to say with the
Prophet *Jeremiah*, in the third of his Lamen-
tations, *that I am the man that haue seene &
felt afflictions, by the rod of Gods wrath.* Also
I am about measure forced to send forth vnto you, and cry out
aloud, to make my grievous deplorable & lamentable com-
plaint, knowne vnto you, of the barbarous cruelty & tiranies,
that Prelates and Iaylors haue for a long time together, and
still do, exercise vpon mee, labouring by vnheard-of cruelty,
to take away my life privately (b) in a hole and corner, that so it
might be noyled abroad, nor daring in regard of my vnspotted
innocency, to bring me againe into the publique view of the
Kingdome, and therefore doe they tortour my poore weake
body, with vnpareld Paganish and Heathenish cruelty. (c)

A breife Relation of part of which, you may read after these
lines, in my Humble Petition to the Noble Lords for mean-
tenance, which I sent the last week to the Wardens of the
Fleete, having leave of them for a Scribe to write it, and they
kept it all night, and Warden *Ingram* sent me this word back
again: that he would deliuer no Petitiō vnles I would recant
and submitt. (d) I answered him back again, that if any of my
adversaries would shew mee wherein I had broken any of my
Soveraignes Lawes, I would submit without any conditions,

A. 2

(a) That is, turne Papiſt and ſoe he might be ſure to haue liberty enough, and prefer-
ment, alſo.

(a) If we will be like
vnto God we muſt
haue our eares open
to heare the cry of
the oppreſſed, and our
hands ready to relieue
them in what we are
able.

(b) This hath been con-
ſtantly their practice,
barbarouſly to mur-
der the Saints in ſe-
cret: knowing their
cauſe to be ſo wicked,
that if it ſhould come
to be openly diſcountred
all good men would
detest it & them.

(c) Howſoever wee
cannot but grieve to
heare of ſuch cruell
ſufferings: yet wee
maie herein reioyce,
that we ſee theſe mar-
ked ſlaves of Antich.
ſo farre to fulfill the
ſcriptures, as that we
may infallibly con-
clude, that they are
the Locuſts which
came out of the hor-
ribleſſe pit.

(c) It is no marvaile that the Scottsmen will haue no Bishops among them. Considering that it is better, that a man were put to the cruellest death that could be devised, then to be vnder their hands.

(f) Gods people when they suffered vnder the pagans, had this fauour shewed them: that their friends might come freely to them: & supply their wants. But the Prelates for cruelty are far worse then the Heathens, for when they once get a man into their prison, they will not suffer any body to visit him, but rather do seek by some secret way to murder him.

(g) Who shall accompany thy body to the grave I know not: But this I know Angels shall accompany thy soule to Heaven. But as for that blood sucker Land: I verily beleue (except he repent) the Devill will accompany him to hell torment.

(h) Such a company would follow Land and his crew if they knew when the King & State would hang them at Tyburne.

to all that they would desire of mee. Or if they see that I am erroneous in my Iudgment, I would dispute it with them, and if they could groundedly, by the authority of the word of God, shew and proue, that I hold one errour. I will be bound publicly to recant, in every Citty of the Kingdome. And I said to my Keeper at severall times, and so I do still, I desire no favour at his hands, nor any Bishop in the Kingdome, for if I be an offender, I desire the extreamity of the law may be inflicted vpon me to the utmost, for I had rather (I professe vnto you) chuse to morrow to dy at Tyburne or (e) Smithfield, then to bee still induring of my Constant Extraordinarie bodily paines and torments, which haue been so grear, that I do assure you many times, they haue almost distracted me of my senses. And if they will not do this, then seeing my owne estate is spent, and all my kindred hath from the beginning left mee: (f) & my weake condition is so exceeding chargeable vnto me, standing mee in more in one week now, then would keep me fife weekes if I were wel, And also seeing that any that will take compassio of my low estate, are not suffered to come at me, to releue mee, I desired the Warden (having none at all to do it for me besides him) that hee according to his place & office, would truly make my miserable condition known to the LORDS, that I may haue a competent allowance from them to sustaine nature, that so I may not perish in this deplorable & weake condition, and this (said I) hee being my chiefe Keeper, hee is bound to do it, at his & your perrell be it, for I know if my innocent blood should this night by cruelty be taken awaie, the Lord would raise vp some, that will require of you & him, a strict account how it was shed: & though you keep me so close, that there be but few at my death, yet you knowe not what great troupes may com to my burial: (g) remember but the late great multitude (h) that came to the Fleet, & attended M. Burton & M. Prinne out of the Cittie, and if any thing but good

good follow vpon this, you & hee are the sole cause of it, therefore as you wil answer it before King and State, look to it, for I am my Soveaignes faithfull and leige subject (i) yea one as faithfull to his Crowne as any whatsoever that breathes in all his Dominions, for if it can be proued that ever I broke any of his lawes, I will submit vnto, and suffer whatsoeuer authoritie wil laie vpon mee: therefore be not you & hee the Bishops Agents to take awaie my life in my close imprisonment, for you vse me worse & more tiranically, then ever any traitour in England was vsed, yea worse then the Gun-powder traitours were vsed. I haue read a great part of the Booke of *Martyrs*, with some Histories of the like kinde: and J will meantaine it, that such an vnpareld Act of crueltie and barborous tiranie, as haue been exercised vpon mee, is not to be found in them all. Yea wicked bloodie Bonner (k) himselfe, never did the like to any of the Saints as haue been done vnto mee, for while they lived, he would either suffer their friends to come at them, to releue them, or else he would allow them meaintenance to preserue life in them, but neither of these can I enjoy, altho hee would dispute with them himselfe, and send for others likewise to do it, and vse all meanes to winne them to himselfe, but none of these haue I yet found, though J haue often desired it: and promised to recant, if it could be shewed that I held any errors. Againe hee would take away their lines, (l) if they broke any of the lawes or would not submit vnto them, but though I haue not broken any of the Kings lawes, and haue offered to faire as I haue done, and haue desired & longed to meet with death, yet can I not be rid of my misery, but you keep me in a tormenting (m) condition, full of extremitie and bodilie paine, that I can neither getease sitting nor lying, being vnable to go without great miserie, being alwaies as it were in the panges of death, & yet cannot meet with it. But said I to M. John Murry & M. Morgan, a Papist, tell the Warden from mee, that

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vnlesse

(i) Let it be obserued that it was neuer yet scene (nor I hope shall be) that ther was any man of his profession iustly tainted for a Traitor to the King & cuntry, whereas the Prelates in all ages since the Devill creited them haue eue proved the most notorious traitors that euer were in the world, & might iustice take place, it would bee proved that they who are now aliue are notorious ones.

(k) Seeing thier wickednes is come to such a height, & fulnesse, and they doe go beyond in cruelty the cruell Tyrants that euer were: My hope is that their destruction & ruin is at hand, and that hee will cause the Lord to spue them out, and so send them packing to their owne place. Amen.

(l) Without doubt the Prelates would do so too, but are restrained: Now it is humbly desired, that they who thinke it not fit that the Bishops should haue their with in taking our lines away: that they suffer them not in the meane time to use us worse. (m) When these Tormentours feele hell torments, then they will know what it is to torment others.

(a) They can shew as much word of God for what they doe; as they doe shew mercy and goodnesse in their actions: and that is in both none at all.

(b) Howsoever the Bishops do cause the Godly to be cruelly vsed in Prison. Yet I am perswaded that neither the King nor the Temporall Lords of his majesties council, do know of it. For it is not possible if they did that they would suffer it, considering how much it is against nature to exercise cruelty vpon any creature: much lesse on man, who carries Gods owne image.

(c) I do not marvaile that the knight would not receive it for a truth. For the truth is: such is their cruelty shewed to such as are against their places, that vntles it were seen with the eyes, one

would scarce beleue it. For this I do affirme & will make it good: that no Rogue in any Tayle of the Land, is so basely & barbarously handled. Not that the Keepers desire so vsd the so, but are charged secretly by the Bb. so to do, & threatened to lose their places if they shew favour to them. (d) This shewes that their cruelty is exercised only by the Bishops meanes.

vntlesse the Bishoppes, by the law of the land, and the word (a) of God, will shew me my offence, I will never submit, nor recant, in the least, while breath is in my body, and therefore it is but in vaine to hope for it, for if he and I should liue together as long as Methusalah did, which was almost a thousand yeares, yet he should never get mee to goe against the sweet peace of a good conscience, or recant that which I am perswaded is a truth, yea if hee should exercise all the cruelty in the world upon mee, though he should locke mee in an Iron chest, that I could neither stirre hand nor foote, and feede me with channell water, and with bread made of sawdust, hee might well take away my life and being from the earth, but he should never make me goe, against my conscience, for I am kept by the power of God, through faith vnto salvation, and Crowne of glory that is so rich in my eyes, that I dare not deny Christ, nor his truth, though all the crueltie in the world should be inflicted upon mee, least he deny mee before his father, which is in heaven: Yet most miserable it is, that I should perish by cruelty, in my close condition, being a faithfull subject to the King, & neuer broke any of his lawes. And let my tormentors looke to it, as they will answer it, for I haue heard that the *Honorable Lords*, (b) which haue beene made acquainted with my cruell vlage, protested they would not beleue, that the Warden dealt so with mee: this with much more than then I said, with some prisoners taking notice of my condition, but especially *Sr. Richard Gravenner*, a worshipfull Knight, (c) who sent to the Warden about it, which I think put him in some feare, that he durst not well denie my reasonable request, in delivering my petition, so hee sent a scribe to me, to draw it ouer a gaine, and to leave out the most of it, especially about my lying in Irons in my sicknesse, which I would not leave out, (d) only I omitted this clause, who suffers for his conscience sake, which was most accepted against, and the old

woman

women that tends mee, delivered the petition againe to him vpon tuesday last, to be deliuered it to the Lords the next day, but he put me off with delaies, that neither vpon wednesdaie at night, nor yet vpon thursdaie could I not in the least know, what was done in it, vntill this present Frydaie morning, that my keeper after many sendings for him, before he would come at me, told me the Warden had deliuered it to the Clarke of the counsell, but it was not yet answered, yea but (said I) was it deliuered to the Lords, and read before them or no, for it may be deliuered to the Clarke of the counsell, and yet neuer come to their eares, or hands, that I know not saith hee, I pray you then tell the Warden, that I desire to know of him, whither it were delivered to the Lords, yea, or no, or whether hee will deliuer it, which if he refuse to doe, I having none to do any thing about it for mee, as hee, and you verie well know, for all my kindred hath left mee, in regard the Bishop of Canterburie, (a) in reveng, hath fallen upon my Father, about his outward estate, hauing now for a long time together, bene in suit, for all his land, which suit hath cost him many a thousand pound, and hath bene heard before the King, and Nobles, and all the Iudges of the land, and the Bishop (b) in private, hath spoken to the Iudges of the Circuit, against my Father, for my sake, which one of the told my eldest Brother of, and this hath bred mee a sore affliction, from all my kindred, but especiallie from my Father (c), which hath made him write to my youngest Brother, here in London, to beware of mee, and my stepps, for I haue bene the greatest griefe vnto him, that ever came to him, soe that I haue noe friend left that I know of, to follow it for mee.

Therefore in regard the Warden deales so with me, I shall be forced to proclaime abroad & make the Kingdome ring (d), with his and the Prelates cruelty towards mee, seeing they still do, as formerly they haue done; by all meanes possible, that

my
the sonne, the King against the Subject. But Christ will set himselfe against them one day.
(d) The Kingdome rings enough already with the Prelates cruelty, for they are minded by all sorts of people good & bad, a most bloody generation: in so much as the nation is weary of them: & desire to be rid of them, as of their sorest & greatest plague.

(a) Was there euer such a Tyrant heard of: that seekes to murther whole families, for the mallice which he beares to some perticular persons. If there were nothing else to stirre up the hearts of people against him this were enough.

(b) I know not how that Judge did answer the Caterpillar? should say Kan kerbury: But if I had heard him speak it. I should haue set my eyes upon him, and said vnto him as Paul did to his Brother Elimas the forcerer, O full of all subtilty, and all mischief, thou child of the Diuell, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord.

(c) This is one of their common practises: to set the father against

(a) This hath bene their constant practise: to keepe from the King and State their secret & bloody acts: for they wel know that if it should be known how many they make away in Prison, by hardysage: they wold smart for it.

(b) Hee meanes the Temporall Lords. for doubtles he knew that it was the Prelates desire, that he should vse him as Cruellie as could be: besides I do beleue, that were it not to giue them consent, no keeper in the Land wold shew soe much inhumanity & barbarousnes as some doe.

(c) Thou mayst besure of that. for is there any basenisse vsed towards Gods people: but they are cheife causes of it.

my Iust and muerfull complaint, might not come vnto the Honorable Lords (a) cares, and therefore I must be constrained to condeavour to get one delivered whether he will or no, and make him it may be, smart for his vnwarrantable cruelty, that hee inhumanly hath exercised vpon mee, not only since I came into your custody, but also before: who kept me close prisoner, well nigh foure monthes together, before my cruell publike suffering, and would not suffer me to take the ayre, the space of one houre: though I haue often sent to him and desired it. For which close imprisonment, hee himselte told me, hee had no order from the Lords, (b) neither wold he shew me any, but said all my punishment was little enough for me: because I was lo refractory and stubborne, when before his face I desired to know wherein, & this I will depose vpon my oath before King & State. For (hee) I verily beleue kept me vp at the Bishops private instigation, (c) but coloured it over with another pretence: because I was not able to procure two Aldermens fellows, according to his demande, of two thousand pound bond, for my safe imprisonment, when he had me vnder many locks, & I being as peaceable a prisoner as any in the Fleete.

This and much more of his cruelty exercised vpon the from time to time, as I am able larglie to particular, which I thinke he will not be able to answer, & therefore he dares not let my miserable estate be made known vnto the Lords, for feare he himselte smart soundly for it, being a maine cause of it.

But tell him from mee, that I am almost murdered with cruelty, my strength being gone and my life euen at deathes doore. therefore I do protest in the presence of God, if I haue not speedy redresse one way or another, I will proclaime aloude his & the Prelates wickednes & barbarous tyranny. (d) & I doubt not but to make him and them smart for it: seeing he will not according to his place (the Lords having sent to him & my Doctor: to know how it is with mee) make them truly acquainted

(d) And know this for thy comfort that many thousands of vs, do cry aloud in thy behalfe, & for many other sufferers with thee, vnto the Lord, that he would avenge himselfe on his enimies. And I beleue Gods wrath is not farre from them.

acquainted how submissiue I am to any reasonable demande, as I declared to his face when I was last before him, but seekes by cruelty to take away my life: hoping in regard of my great weaknes and paine, that I will suddenly die, and there wilbe an end of me. And then may saie(a) I dyed of long sicknes and weaknesse, and so colour ouer their tyranny and crueltie, for he dares not let his and the Bishops crueltie be knowne, but seeks by all means to hide it from the *Noble Lords(b)& Peeres* of the Land, whom I know haue more Humanity, Nobilitie and mercie in their heroycall breast: then for nothing & without any iust offence, to take awaie a poore young mans life in a corner. Now the very speaking of these things (to some of my compassionate friends, that came vp to my lodging to see me, who would reueiue no wrong of my Keeper) hath struck him to the very heart, and made him looke soe pale as if he would haue fallen down dead at my bed side, & it so affrighted him: that now he will not let any come to me, but hath refused to let many come at me, that haue desired to communicate to my necessities, neither can I now scarce get himselfe to come vp to mee. But (saith hee) that which you set your hand too, (before *Sr. John Bankes*) hath vndone you, well if it haue (said I) yet I am sure there is nothing in it, either against the *King* or his lawes. Its true I accused the Bishops of High Treason, & mentioned the Parliament lawes of the Land for prooue of it. Also their publique renouncing of the *King* and State, in the Censure of *Noble Doctor Bastwick*, in the High Commission Court. And I offered vpon my life to make it good, and this I spake, also before many Prisoners through the grates of my window, desiring them beare wittnesse of this: and much more which I then spake, and now againe to you my Brethren; vnderstanding well what I say, and I will affirme it: that all the Bishops in England that had a hand in the Censuring of *Dr. Bastwick*, in the High Commission Court, are Traytors to the *King &*

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proued, in the chiefeest Courts of the Land, yea if some parliament had stood they would haue been ere this time censured & executed for Traytors, & this they know well enough, inso much as a Parliament to them, is as *Drake* was to the Spaniard.

[a] This hath beene anciently their practice when they murdered the Saints in prison by barbarous usage; to devise notorious lyes for their excuse, but the Lord who sees their wickednesse will bring them forth one day for it, to their shame before men and Angels,

(b) No doubt the noble Lords & Peeres doe know a great deal of their treachery, & villany; yet not halfe of it, for it is one of their speciall employments to keep from the *King* and state the knowledge of their base actions, and hence it is that they strue soe much to suppress all books that are written in the discouery of their actions, for they well know, should the land know what they doe it would spue them out.

[c] So much hath beene from time to time offered to bee

State

(a) It is made known to the whole nation, and proved clearly in many Bookes, as the *Abreviate Syons Plea*, &c. Besides the people generally take them no other-wise.

(b) It is a thing which the Prelates doe much labour about, namely to perswade the King and his Councill that the Puritants in writings against their cruelty do greatly disgrace the Government of the Land. But if the thing were truly considered; that which hath made the Englishnation Contemprible in the eyes of the world, is the inhumane practises of Bishoppes, for where shall a man heare of so vile and bloody a practice as this.

Srate, as I will proue by severall Acts of Parliamer, vpon paine of loosing my head; if I may haue a legall proceeding against them. Therefore make it knowne: (a) for hee that conceales Treason, (by the lawes of the Land) is guilty of punishment, as well as the Traitor himselve, therefore looke to it, for I am able to proue what I say. But as for my *Petition*, I am out of all hopes of any releefe by it, in regard it is not yet, neither do I think it will ever be delivered to the *Lords* by the Warden. And also I do verily thinke it will be found, that hee and the Bishops as I haue accused them before many witnsses: even the same day fell sicke, and as I haue formerly said, they haue conspired together, by tiranicall cruelty, of set purpose to take awaie my life and blood, which is almost spent alreadie that so I might not liue to make (their Pagan-like wickednes and barbarous tirnanie) knowne. And therefore was I laid in Irones for a long time, together, even in my sicknesse, in which I laid night and day, with my hands and feet fast in the Fetters, my Bootes & stockens being on my legs for many nights together, Without (I verilie thinke,) the least order from the *Honorable, Lords*, they hoping by this meanes, to put an end to my daies, which they haue almost done. For as I then tould my *Doctor*, the coldnesse of my Irones, they being verie straitte vpon the wrists of my Armes, which struck an ague soe to my heart, that I thought I should haue dyed in a sudden fitt of paine. when none was with mee, and I verily thinke it had killed me ere this, if I had not followed my *Doctors* advise, in being at charges to get a wider made, which sent for to the Smiths, my Keeper delaying to do it for mee, though I much desired it of him: that so I might haue wrapped cloaths enough about it, to keep awaie the peircing cold, which proceeded from the coldnesse of the Irones. (b)

O yee Heavens and earth, that is to say: you true Churches & Christian Common wealths, (as you are called) stand amazed

and wonder: at the barberous and savadge crueltie, (of bloody Bishops & Iaylours) exercisid vpon mee, a poore weake and young stripling, without any just cause at al, only because I love the Lord Iesus Christ & am a faithfull subiect to my Prince, (a) & Country, and wil not suffer (as much as in me lies) to be ruinated by Ambitious, Treacherous popish Prelats. For if my strength of bodie (which is now exceeding weake) would serue, and a fit opportunity, I could write a large & Lamentable complaint vnto you, that one would hardly beleene: (b) that ever such barberous crueltie should (be in England) vpon a poor weak and innocent young man. Now this may make your spirits within you to faile: in remembrance of your great sinne & want of courage, (c) in looking to me in my great & sore sicknesse, that you laboured not for some redresse for mee; who haue suffered al that I haue done, for the glorie of God, and your good and welfare, to free you from bloody tiranicall Lordly Prelates. Oh therefore remember what the Angell of the Lord said, *Iudg 5. Cuse ye Meo ze with a bitter curse, because the inhabitants thereof came not out to the help of the Lord against the mighty.* And the spirit of God in *Jeremiah 48.* saith, *Cursed be he that doth the work of the Lord negligently & carelessly.* Now you being the Lords people, you are bound to do his worke: and to second those that do it, (d) to the vtmost of your power. But how you haue failed in doing this duty of loue to mee, judg yee, for I am now in *Pauls* condition when hee first answered before *Nero*, had none to stand by him, but all forsooke him. Ah my Brethren if at the last there be any couraige in you for Christ and his truth, or any bowels of mercie and compassion in you towards mee, his faithfull and innocent servant that suffers for his truth, I humblie beseech & intreate you to looke with loue and a fauourable eye vpon my low estate, and suffer me not to loofe my life in a hole and corner, and so perish in my deplorable condition. Which if you do not looke the better to

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(a) Were thou not a faithfull subiect to thy Prince, the Prelates would never hate thee, for what Priest or Iesuit haue they ever so hadled. (b) Yes many would beleue it. For it is certain, & I here report it of knowledg; that in all the Popish countries where I haue bene, there is not that cruelty now exercisid by Bish. any where, as there is in England. The Prelates in Poland, Spaine, France, are not halfe so vile. Much lesse sinne as those doe against knowledge and conscience.

(c) It is iust with God, that he should keepe these *Canaanites* amongst us: as pricks in our side, in regard wee thew not our selves more zealous of his glory in the releefe of our Brethren.

(d) If they who haue brauely fought against the Bish. had bene followed by mee, minde giues me they

had been down ere this time, I do not meane any fighting with carnall Weapons, but professing openly and boldly the truth, and suffering chearfully for it.

(a) There be many that do think so too; and haue an eye at thy condition. Now if things fall not our way; we do not doubt but iustice will yet take place amongst us, if not the Lord will right the poore mans case.

(b) Oh, that it would please his Majestie but to here once the case of his poor subjects, and to take informatiō vvhath they suffer at the hands of the Prelates. I am perswaded, were he rightly possessed of their doings, hee would be so farre fro putting forth his little finger to esta-
them in Scotland, as that he would soone with both hands cast them out of Englad.

(c) The cowardlines and faintheartednesse of our nation, is that which hath made the Prelats to domineer so ouer us. now what slaue would not take authority vpon him, if his Mr. giue way to it.

(d) I hope if the King and counsell be made acquainted with it, they will see to it as that the blood of this young man may not ly upon the Land.

mee, to make mee some speedy helpe, otherwise I am like shortly to loose my life, for I do protest in the presence of my God from my verie soule, that I am dailie affraid, that I shall privately be murdered, (a) by secret cruel practises from *William Laud* the great Prelate and traytour of Canterburie, & *James Ingram* the cruell tinannicall corrupt *Machavillion* warden of the Fleete. And therefore once more for our Christ his sake I earnestlie desire you, that some of you would by all faire & peaceable meanes, labour for some redresse for mee, by taking this my following petition, to deliuer to the King, (b) or to the Lords, and acquaint them if it bee possible trulie and throughly with my deplorable miserie and lamentable condition, and to the shame of England, & all true hearted English men, I am like for my innocencie to be murdered in my close, cruell imprisonment, hauing to my knowledge, never broken any of my Soveraignes lawes; or disobeied anie, that are in lawfull autoritie, which if it can be proued against mee, I promise to submit, to whatsoeuer they will desire of me. I know they haue used much meanes, that my petitions should not haue audience, therefore I praie you, be not repulled at the first deniall, but let your importunitie giue them no rest, and I doubt not, but to haue redresse, to the confusion of my capital enemies the Prelates, which if you out of base, & fearfull cowardlines refuse (c) to do, it is your great sin, for faith the spirit of God. Cursed is he that is affraid of the face of man: and I know, If I perish in this my forsaken condition, my innocent blood will lie heauie upon your heads, who haue neglected your dutie towards mee. In this particular, all that I desire at the King, (d) & Nobles hands is, but the one of these 3. things, which yet in England was never denied to anie traitour.

First, If I be an offender, and deserued death, I refuse not to dy, but desire that it may be inflicted upon mee, in a legal waie

way to the utmost, without any mercy at all. (a)

Secondly, If not this, then that my friends that would take compassion on me, might be suffered with freedome to come at me, to relieve mee. (b)

Thirdly, if this neither, then seeing I am at extraordinarie charges, in regard of my sicknesse, and weaknesse; and my estate is spent, my humble desire is, that they would allow me a competent allowance, to sustaine nature, & preferre life. (c) It may be the answer to my petition, may by the cunning of the suttile fox of Lambeth, who hitherto hath stopped and intercepted all meanes, that haue beene used for my redresse, both to the King, and Nobles. Therefore I earnestly desire of you, that some of you would daillie come to my pittifull Purgatorie & inquire how 'tis with me, & whether I be deuoured in the flames thereof or no, for the Bishops tirannicall crueltie, and inveterate hatred against me, and my jaylors doggednesse, and savagenesse is such, that I do assure you upon the word of a true and faithfull souldier of Jesus Christ, that I feare, if you neglect me, as you haue done, and do not looke well after mee, in hauing a daily vigilant eye, to the fleete, I shall shortly by one meanes or other, haue my life taken from me, in a corner, therefore as you loue my Maister Christ, haue brotherly care of me, his faithfull servant.

I shall not neede (I hope) in this my exceeding great weaknesse, hauing gone already beyond my present strength, in a halfe blinde condition, to write these lines my selfe, without Inke unto you, being aboue measure pressed in my spirit to do it, in regard I am so exceeding tormented with bodilie Paine, especially in my head by reason of my long closenesse; and the crueltie that I under went in the daie of my publicke suffering, that my soule is not able to containe it selfe, in silence any longer, least I become guiltie of my owne blood. To laie down any more arguments vnto you; but desire you to read two late

(a) Were a man a murderer, a Trayter a Witch, &c. What could the magistrate doe more then proceed by law: Now consider the cruelty of the Prelates, vvhoe seek to haue the people of God proceeded against in a more cruell vway.

(b) It is such a cruelty, as vvas never heard of in the vworld to be practised by any Tirants but the Prelates. Namly, to shut men up in noysome Dungeons, & forbid all people to bring the any releefe. It vvere unmercifull to shut up any bruit beast & not giue it food, for a man, vvhould rather kill it out of the vway, then tiranise ouer it in such a sort.

(c) No doubt if either the King or the Council, vnderstand what is here desired, but they will grant it, for vvhlesse they be Bishops, an English man is mercifull by nature.

[a] It is pittie that young Bastwick puts not forth more bookes, but it may be he hopes their ruin is at hand, & in that regard thinks it not necessary to write.

(b) That which gives us cause to thinke that their cursed Kingdome is comming down: It is in regard of the many effectuall prayers which are dayly put up to God against them, and it is obserued how the Lord doth in a speciall manner now moue the hearts of his Children this way to seek him, as if he meant to prepare away by their prayers for to bring in his judgments upon the Kingdom of the Beast.

printed bookes, the one is called *The Beast is Wounded. Or the Scots Newes*, and put forth by *Iohn Bastwicks* Younger Brother, (a) & the other is Called *A Light for the ignorant*. And in them you shal find your dutie punctually laid down how to detest the wicked Lordlie Bb. as the Diuel himself whose officers they are, & with all lawfull power, to keep, & assist those that groan under their tirannie, & in a lawfull & right waie seeke deliuerance from them. So remembering my brotherly loue vnto you, and returning my humblest thankes vnto you for your loue already manifested vnto mee; and bestowed vpon mee, for which the Lord hath a recompence in store. My soule now lying a bleeding before my God, (b) earnestlie, and unceasntlie crying vnto him with manie teares proceeding from a too too much burdened and wounded spirit, and his Sion, and the downfall of all Gods enimies, which he for his mercies sake hasten and accomplish.

Now vnto Iehovah, the Lord of Hosts, and our faithfull and powerfull God, I committ and commend you, & rest.

From the Fleete, my refining furnace, in which though my soule thrue in Godliness: yet my bodie and blood is almost spent. This present Friday, being one of the Bishops Idoll-daies, commonly called, *St. Thomas-day*.

December 20. Anno. 1638.

Your faithfull & courraigious Brother, in great tribulation for the purity of the truth of Christ, and publike bearing witnesse thereto,

JOHN LILBVRNE. Etatis sua 22.

The fore-mentioned *Petition* followes,

To

*To the Right Honourable, the Lords, and others, of his
Majestyes most Honourable privie Councill.*

The humble Petition of *JOHN LILBVRNE* Close prisoner
in the Common Jayle in the Fleete.

Humblly sheweth, that your Petitioner hath beene about ten moneths
close prisoner, the greatest part whereof hath been in the wards of the
Fleete, where hee hath beene to closely kept, that no friends haue beene
suffered to come at him, to reliefe him; to speake with him. And alsoe
for a great time together, hath layen in setters of Iron, vpon both handes
and legs, and so it hath pleased God, inregard of the exceeding greatnesse
of his sore punishment, and misery which he hath layen under, to bring
bodily weaknesse vpon him, and a heavy and dangerous sicknesse, which
he hath laid many moneths together, which hath brought him many times
even to deaths doore, which yet with weaknesse and patience, hee hath
undergone, though hee rather hath desired to haue chosen present death,
then to haue felt the constant bitternes, of those bodily torments, & paines;
which in this miserable condition, he hath groined vnder.

Now forasmuch as your petitioner hath in all humble manner besought
his Majesty, and your Honours, for a little liberty to take some aire for the
preseruatiō of his life, but no answer could he receiue, being now out of all
hopes, to obtaine his humble, and reasonable request, yet remains as
close as ever, in which regard he hath continued very weake, and in ex-
ceeding much bodily paine and misery: being forced in this his weaknes,
to keepe the coldnesse of his Irons from his Tender flesh, to lye for a long
time together in his bed, in stockings and bootes, which sicknes in regard
of the greatnes, and long continuance of it, and being forced to a constant
course of Physick, and to keepe a dyet of Phisicall things, to keepe life in his
body which hath beene extraordinary chargeable to him, and hath exhaust-
ed and spent all his estate, and being from the first beginning unto this
day forsaken by his kindred and friends and left to the world.

Hee is therefore forced in regard of want of meanes, to keepe life & sub-
stain nature in this his sicknes. To Petition most humbly to your honours,
that out of compassion to him, in his great distresse, who suffers for his consci-
ence sake, in which he is like to perish, to grant him a competent allowance,
to preserve life, that he may not dye for want of food. And as in duty bound
shall ever pray.

FINIS.